MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY MORNING, M'CH 11, '74.

THE YOUNG MEN OF THE COUNTRY.

There should be no jealousy between young and old men in the management and control of political affairs. Both should feel an interest in all that concerns the public good. Old men, prompted by experience, are more reliable in council, but the young men are more active and efficient in the execution of plans. In every part of Shelby county, men venerated for their years, knowledge, and experience in public affairs have signified their willingness to participate in the coming elections, and it should be a source of pride and satisfaction to all lovers of their country to observe the warm and active interest manifested by our young men in the approaching contest. This will give animation and energy to the contest. The chief cause of the progressiveness and vigor which characterize all popular movements in this country is the large number of young men who participate prominently in public affairs. In Europe, the energy and fire of their youth are frittered away in studies prolonged beyond the first blush of manhood, in long and tedious apprenticeships, and difficult and engrossing probationary preparations, all calculated, perhaps, to make profound scholars in books and finished artisans, but at the sacrifice of much of that knowledge of the world, that ready tact and skillful self-reliance, which distinguish the youth of this country. We are inclined to believe that the latter species of knowledge is far preferable to the former. We are far from underrating the value of learning and the utility of book knowledge, but still we look upon these as mere media of communicating and making known that more solid wisdom which is found in the great volume of nature. We have seen men who could not read or write, but who possessed stores of that worldly knowledge that profiteth more than all the learning which is embraced within the four walls of the Vatican. And this is the knowledge which our people learn at an earlier age than those of any other country. Habits of independence and self-reliance, the early and necessary assumption of all the duties and responsibilities of the man and the citizen, are well calculated to discipline our youth in all the departments of worldly science, and to fit them to meet with bold and undaunted front all the exigencies of life. And bringing to the performance of these duties all the energy, vigor, enthusiasm and daring which are natural to the human mind ere it is fettered and cramped by the selfish cares which in mature age operate as drag-chains upon our natural promptings, our youth naturally and inevitably assume the lead in all great popular movements. This is especially true of our political organizations. The time still exists when the graybeards of the country participate warmly in our political movements, but with the progress of Democracy their interest in public affairs will relax, and the battle will be fought chiefly by the youth of the country. And that party which can present considerations and arguments most attractive to youthful minds and hearts is the one upon whose standard in any contest in this republic victory will be certain to perch. Hence the party which is for progress, for progress how adventurous soever, for restless, ceaseless activity and boundless improvement, expansion and invention, will rally around it a majority of the youth of the country. It may be true that there are not a few of those with whose hearts time has dealt gently, and who, beneath a venerable exterior wear souls full of youthful vigor and fire; that there are others who have valuable offices to take care of or to get, and that there are still others who linger amid the scenes of their former glory; but the great mass of those who fight our political battles from pure, honest, generous impulses, are the young men of the country. Those who labor most for the success of their party will be the first to secure the offices vacated by their fathers.

THE strongest argument yet presented against an inflation of currency is furnished by the bureau of statistics, which recently presented some interesting figures, contrasting the financial status of the principal countries of Europe with that of the United States. From these it appears that the total amount of gold coin circulating in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at the close of 1872 was £84,551,000 sterling; silver, £15,000,000; bronze, £1,148,000; excess of bank-notes over coin reserves, £40,540,000; total circulation in coin and notes, £141,239,000; being equivalent in United States gold coin to $686,421,540. The metallic currency, coin and bullion of France is given at 4,000,000,000 francs; notes of the bank of France in circulation on December 26, 1873, 2,807,689,625 francs; total, 6,807,689,625 francs. Deduct metallic reserve in bank December 28, 759,962,419 francs, and the currency circulation is 6,047,727,206 francs, equivalent in United States gold coin, at twenty cents to the franc, to $1,209,545,441. In the twenty-two States composing the North German confederation the supposed aggregate of coin is 632,435,362 thalers. The coin held in reserve by the banks to protect their note circulation is 100,000,000 thalers, leaving in the hands of the people 532,435,362 thalers. The notes in the hands of the people amount to 253,159,504 thalers, equivalent in United States gold coin to $557,772,098. The German government in the last two years has coined about 334,000,000 thalers in gold. From the above it will appear that in England the gold and silver circulation is £103,500,000 against £37,700,000 in notes; in France 4,000,000,000 francs of metallic currency against 2,807,689,625 francs in notes; in Germany, 632,435,362 thalers of metallic currency against 253,159,142 thalers of paper currency. In the United States there is virtually no metallic currency, and the note circulation, including national bank notes, legal tenders, fractional currency and other treasury notes, exceeds $800,000,000, the most disgraceful financial situation that can be found in any commercial nation on the globe. And this, too, in a country which is mining from sixty-five to a hundred millions of gold and silver every year, a larger product than in all other nations combined.

THE Nashville *Union and American*, of Saturday, had an article on the subject of "Over Investment in Railways," which is worthy of careful thought, suggesting, as it does, that hereafter we should build cheaper railways of a different gauge from those now in common use. Whether these cheaper railways will answer for great through lines of freight and travel we can not undertake to say, that must be decided by actual experiment. In regard to roads of a local character they undoubtedly should be of the cheaper style. We believe the two systems can be made to work in perfect harmony, mutually beneficial. But recurring to the article of our cotemporary, we find it advancing arguments in support of its position that the APPEAL originated two or three years since when advocating narrow-gauge roads. It thinks our financial trouble is due more to pushing railways too far, and at too great a cost per mile, including equipments, than to all other causes combined. After investing some two thousand million dollars cash in these very expensive works of art, the companies that own them have issued corporation bonds to the amount of fifteen hundred million dollars more, on which they have promised to pay annual or semi-annual interest, to say nothing of principal. One-half of all this investment is lost forever, as much so as is a house that is burnt, or a ship that is sunk to the bottom of the sea. Lotteries are often, if not always, so constructed that the more tickets one buys the more capital he loses, and a large majority of railroads have been built on the same principle. As cited in his admirable speech at Lawrenceburg, Major Sykes quotes the *Railway Monitor* as putting the average cost of all American railways, up to 1874, at $52,000 per mile. Their gross indebtedness is $1,999,741,507; their gross earnings $478,885,597; their net earnings, $174,350,913. These figures leave their working expenses at $304.534,684 a year. With narrow and less expensive iron-ways—say roads that cost fifty thousand dollars per mile built at twenty thousand, and all rolling stock proportionably lighter, three-fifths of the whole cost of construction would have been saved to the country, while their net earnings would be increased 120 per cent. above what they now are. The investments have been bad, like erecting a costly hotel, with an extravagant rate of fare where a cheaper house, with less charges, would have made the fortune of the proprietor and given general satisfaction.

THE growth of Denver, Colorado, is something marvelous, even for this country. The *Tribune* of that city, itself good evidence of the fact, summing up the figures, begins with the official census of 1870, which put the population of Denver at 4731. By the census taken December, 1871, the population was found to be 10,830, a gain of 6000 in a year and a half; and at the close of 1872 the best attainable estimates showed it to be 14,000. A careful census, now nearly completed, will place it at something over 22,500, a gain of 8000 during the year—at the rate of 700 per month. The assessment roll of real and personal property in Denver, for the year 1873, as made by the city assessor, in July, was $9,331,100. This is $3,467,760 greater than the assessment roll of the city of Leavenworth for 1873, and from $1,000,000 to $2,500,000 greater than the valuation of Kansas City, Dubuque or Salt Lake, for the same time; and of either of the entire territories of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho or Arizona. The valuation of Denver in 1863 was but $593,200. The increase in ten years to $9,931,100 is something unequaled in the West. There were erected during 1873 in the city two hundred and twenty-five brick buildings, at a cost of $267,100; and four hundred and twenty-three frame buildings, at a cost of $415,000—making a total of six hundred and forty-eight buildings, at a cost of $1,382,600. The whole number of buildings, of all descriptions, erected in Denver for the three years ending December 31, 1873, was 2145, at a cost of $5,104,600.

AS EVIDENCING the necessity for other treatment of inebriates than that of repeated commitments, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* publishes the following table, reported by Mr. Sterne, and taken from the records in possession of the warden of the workhouse on Blackwell's Island, for the years 1871-2:

Men.		Women.	
108	6 times	37	15 times
28	7 times	28	16 times
102	8 times	7	17 times
5	9 times	33	18 times
161	10 times	5	19 times
16	12 times	782	20 times
21	15 times	1	21 times
27	20 times	7	22 times
4	25 times	1	23 times
1	30 times	3	24 times
2	60 times	10	25 times
1	40 times	5	26 times
1	70 times	1	28 times
1	75 times	1	29 times
1	80 times	36	30 times
1	100 times	91	40 times
590		1	41 times
Women.		1	48 times
3,702	6 times	1	49 times
602	7 times	14	50 times
1,437	8 times	1	58 times
172	9 times	19	60 times
1,157	10 times	1	70 times
31	11 times	1	80 times
749	12 times	1	86 times
13	13 times	29	100 times
45	14 times	9,006	

There can be no stronger argument against the theory held by many, that the disgrace of a commitment breaks up the habit of drinking. On the contrary, these figures show to what a fearful extent a commitment fastens the habit for life. A commitment to the workhouse, the only place where drunkards are sent, is therefore the worst possible treatment for an occasional or accidental drunkard.

WE have several times in these columns called attention to the efforts of Mr. Fryer, of Nashville, in behalf of the establishment of a polytechnic school at the State capital. We are happy to learn, from a communication from that gentleman in the *Banner* of Sunday, that subscriptions to the enterprise are increasing; that the farmers, mechanics and the capitalists are coming forward in unity, subscribing for various amounts of stock, according to their ability. Consequently, the indications are that the requisite amount of money will be raised to start the institution in a manner creditable to our people. Should this be accomplished, the harmony resulting therefrom will tend to brighten the prospects of every other worthy enterprise in the State.

Now that the Clay-street building is completed, we trust the school board will bend every energy toward the early construction of a high-school building. The lot secured, on Monroe street extended, although just now a little out of the way, is most eligible, the future considered. The approaches to it, especially in wet weather, are not the best in the world, but no doubt when the school board begins to build the general council will compel the construction of sidewalks and gutters, and order the proper grading and rounding up of the highway.

STREET cleaning and yard cleaning should now engage the attention of the citizens and municipal authorities.

SENATOR MATHEW CARPENTER wishes each polling place in the United States to be supplied with patent ballot-boxes—costing fifteen dollars each—which cannot be tampered with at elections. To this the Augusta *Chronicle and Sentinel* says: "The patent boxes might work all right, but who'd look after the parties who had them in charge? That's the trouble. Like the stranger who offered to act as John Randolph's stakeholder at a race-course, they might hold the boxes, but who in h— would hold them?"

OUR country is growing rapidly in manufactures at least. The following comparison from the last census shows a most wonderful increase:

	1870.	1860.
Number of establishments	252,148	140,433
Hands employed	2,053,996	1,311,246
Capital	$2,118,208,769	$1,009,855,715
Wages	775,584,343	378,878,966
Value of raw material	2,488,427,242	1,031,605,092
Value of products	4,232,325,442	1,885,861,676

LAWRENCEBURG is to be the Lowell of Tennessee. All it needs is railroad communication with the rest of the world, and that it will shortly have by the Memphis and Knoxville narrow-gauge, which we are assured will be completed throughout its entire length within the next two years. We hope so.

THE criminal code of Tennessee, as compiled by General James M. Quarles, of Nashville, containing also a digest of criminal cases, is recommended by the supreme court and indorsed by the bar generally. It is spoken of as a useful and timely work, a monument of the learning and skill of the distinguished author.

THE New York *Tribune*, of the 6th, publishes a table of customhouse delinquencies for the whole of the United States, the sum total of which is $3,633,212 22, of which amount Memphis is credited with one hundred dollars. Our collector will please wipe that out at once.

THE legislature of Georgia, in a series of well-considered and sensible resolutions, has very becomingly and properly indorsed the tax-payers movement of South Carolina, which has already met the approval of all the leading papers of the Union, weekly as well as daily, without regard to party.

THE *Tipton Record* is sententious and to the point. In its last issue, it says: "Let the independents 'come over into Macedonia and help us.' We are ready to meet them half way, and to extend to them the right hand of fellowship." We say so, too.

THE Nashville *Banner* says that up to Saturday last 9172 Tennessee bonds had been registered, and 3506 bonds funded, making a total of $12,678,000. Bonds to the extent of over $1,000,000 were registered and funded during the past week.

THE Nashville *Banner* and the *Union and American* are engaged in the asinine and unprofitable business of repeating, "You're another," to the infinite disgust of their readers and decent people generally.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Nashville *Union and American* advises that we send Dorsey B. Thomas to congress, and elect General Quarles to be the next governor of Tennessee.

THE blackguard newspaper war which was waged in Louisville so unrelentingly, is over, and the people who read newspapers, and who want to have a good opinion of editors, are very glad.